

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) In a system that includes a computer device and a printing device, a method for providing print job accounting, the method comprising ~~the steps for:~~

receiving a request to render ~~initiating a print job; and~~

determining a cost for consumables that would be used in rendering the particular print job prior to despooling print data of the print job to the printing device, ~~wherein the print data relates to the print job;~~

determining an amount of available funds in a user's account; and

if the amount of available funds exceeds the cost for consumables, charging the cost to the account and rendering the print job at the printing device.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein ~~the step for said~~ determining an amount of available funds ~~whether there exist sufficient funds further comprises~~ authenticating the user and ~~the step for authorization to access the user's information relating to~~ the account.

4. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising ~~wherein the step for authenticating information comprises the step for receiving information from a the~~ user to perform said authenticating the user and authorization to access the user's account.

5. (original) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the information received includes a password.

6. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein ~~the step for said~~ authenticating the user and authorization to access the user's account information ~~information comprises the steps for:~~

using a print processor to authenticate user information and account information;

and

passing the user information and account information to a spooler.

7. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein ~~the step for said~~ passing the user information comprises at least one of:

- (i) embedding the user and account information in spool data;
- (ii) using an application program interface call to pass the user and account information;
- (iii) using a spool directory to pass the user and account information; or
- (iv) using a registry to pass the user and account information.

8. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein if the amount of available funds does not exceed the cost for consumables, ~~if the information is not authenticated,~~ performing the step for denying a spooling of the print data to the printing device.

9. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein ~~the step for~~ said determining a cost for consumables ~~the print job further comprises the step for parsing~~ spool data of the print job.

10. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein ~~the step for~~ said parsing spool data ~~includes the steps for~~ comprises:

determining sheet assembly requirements for rendering the print job;  
determining the sheet assembly characteristics of the print job; and  
determining the number of pages ~~for~~ to render the print job.

11. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein ~~the step for~~ said determining the number of pages includes counting the number of EMF pathnames.

12. (original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step for determining the number of pages includes identifying the number of page boundaries for the print job.

13. (original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step for determining the number of pages includes counting the number of EMF page file offset links.

14. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising ~~the steps~~ for:

writing print instructions to a printer driver;  
saving print instructions and device context in EMF; and

initiating spooling of journaled data to the spooler.

15. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising ~~the step~~  
~~for~~-despooling spool data from the spooler to a print processor.

16. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising ~~the steps~~  
~~for~~:

writing print instructions to a printer driver;

rendering print instruction and device context data into printer ready data; and

initiating spooling of printer ready data to the spooler.

17. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising ~~the step~~  
~~for~~-despooling spool data from the spooler to a print processor.

18. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising ~~the steps~~  
~~for~~:

writing print instructions to a printer driver;

saving print instructions and device context in EMF;

spooling EMF data to a client spooler;

despooling EMF data to a client print processor; and

initiating queuing of the print job on a print server.

19. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising ~~the step~~  
~~for~~ despooling spool data from a server spooler to a server print processor.

20. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising ~~the steps~~  
~~for~~:

writing print instructions to a printer driver;

rendering print instructions and device context data into printer ready data;

spooling printer ready data to a client spooler;

despooling printer ready data to a client print processor; and

initiating queuing of the print job on a print server.

21. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising ~~the step~~  
~~for~~ despooling spool data from a server spooler to a server print processor.

22. (currently amended) A system for use in providing print job accounting, the system comprising:

a printing device;

a computer device ~~linked in communication with~~ the printing device, wherein the computer device is configured to initiate a print job that is to be printed-rendered at the printer device;

a module accessible by the computer device that is configured to determine, and wherein a cost for consumables that would be used in rendering the particular print job is calculated by the system prior to despooling print data of, corresponding to the print job, to the printing device;

a module accessible by the computer device that is configured to determine an amount of available funds in a user's account, wherein if the amount of available funds exceeds the cost for consumables the cost is charged to the account and the print job is rendered at the printing device.

23. (currently amended) A system as recited in claim 22, ~~further comprising a network, wherein the network links the computer device~~ is in communication with the printing device across a network.

24. (original) A system as recited in claim 23, further comprising a second computer device connected to the network, wherein the second computer device is a server, and wherein the computer device is a client.

25. (currently amended) A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer device includes a spooler that is used to parse data for the module that determines the cost for consumables~~in order to calculate the cost for the print job.~~

26. (currently amended) A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer device includes a printer driver that is used to parse data for the module that determines the cost for consumables~~in order to calculate the cost for the print job.~~

27. (currently amended) A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer device includes a print processor that is used to provide job accounting information to the module that determines the cost for consumables.

28. (currently amended) A system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer device includes a spooler that is used to provide print job accounting information to the module that determines the cost for consumables.

29. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in a computer readable medium for implementing within a computer system a method for providing print job accounting, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps ~~for~~of:

receiving a request to render ~~initiating~~ a print job; and

determining a cost for consumables that would be used in rendering the particular print job prior to despooling print data of the print job to the printing device, ~~wherein the print data relates to the print job;~~

determining an amount of available funds in a user's account; and

if the amount of available funds exceeds the cost for consumables, charging the cost to the account and rendering the print job at the printing device.

30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) A computer program product as recited in claim ~~30~~29, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing the step ~~for~~of authenticating the user and access to user's information relating to the account.



32. (currently amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 31, wherein if the ~~information-user and the user's account are~~is not authenticated, the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing the step ~~for~~of denying a spooling of the print data to the printing device.

33. (currently amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 32, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing the steps ~~for~~of:

- determining sheet assembly requirements for the print job;
- determining the sheet assembly characteristics of the print job; and
- determining the number of pages ~~for~~of the print job.